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Security Council

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Letter dated 11 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to forward to you a statement from the Government of Rwanda about the unilateral withdrawal of the Rwanda Patriotic Army from Kisangani. We strongly hope that the Security Council will be able to dispatch United Nations observers at the earliest possible time to ease the suffering of innocent civilians caused by the irresponsible continued shelling of the city by the Uganda People's Defence Force.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Joseph W. **Mutaboba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 11 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Unilateral withdrawal of the Rwanda Patriotic Army from Kisangani

For the last six days, heavy fighting has been going on between the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) and the Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA). This fighting was sparked off by a UPDF attack on RPA troops who were withdrawing from Kisangani in accordance with the Kampala and Kigali agreement.

A series of ceasefire agreements, largely negotiated through the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), failed to hold owing to the intransigence of the UPDF commanders on the ground.

On 7 June 2000, a ceasefire was brokered by the State Department of the United States of America and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the full participation of President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and President Paul Kagame of Rwanda. The UPDF totally ignored the ceasefire and continued shelling the city of Kisangani, killing large numbers of innocent Congolese civilians, as well as destroying property.

Today, Brigadier James Kazini issued an ultimatum to the Kisangani population to vacate the city or face imminent death.

The Government of Rwanda is gravely concerned about the killing of innocent civilians and the wanton destruction deliberately caused by UPDF.

In view of this unnecessary fighting and loss of innocent lives, the Government of Rwanda has taken a decision to effect a unilateral withdrawal from all positions occupied by RPA in Kisangani.

The Government of Rwanda calls upon the United Nations to send military observers to Kisangani to witness the RPA withdrawal. The RPA has made the Bangboka airport accessible to international flights and will hand over the airport with other positions held by RPA to MONUC.

Done at Kigali, on 10 June 2000

(*Signed*) André **Bumaya**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation